

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Senator Catherine Osten (19<sup>th</sup> State Senatorial District)

Senator Paul Formica (20<sup>th</sup> State Senatorial District)

Representative Toni Walker (93<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District)

RE: Funding of Connecticut Magnet School (Written by Alayna Ellis, 9)

To the Co-Chairs of the Appropriations Committee

Wintergreen Inter-district Magnet School (WIMS) is an awesome school! WIMS is full of amazing teachers, there are many ways to express your interests, and it's full of different types of people! This is only my third year here and WIMS is an awesome school! So please, keep reading!

As shy as I am, all the teachers are super sweet! My first year I had Ms. Bruhn, she was so nice I learned quite a bit. Then in third grade I had Ms. Pappa. That year went by so fast! She was sooooo nice! And this year I have Ms. Rowland and it's already February (I feel like it should be December)! Ms. Rowland is so sweet and this year I learned so much! I grew stronger with my multiplications and I learned long division. I learned how to make literary essays and how to write long plays (which I love). And most importantly this year I learned how to stick up for myself. Wow! I have learned a lot!

As a girl who likes to perform, I love the opportunities to perform at my school. One of my passions is acting! I love to act because it has three hobbies I love to do: singing, dancing, and acting! Another reason why I act is because when I grow up I want to be a playwright. This year WIMS is doing the Lion King Kids. I'm playing Rafiki 4 (there are 9!). And not to brag, but I'm the only Rafiki without a partner! But the one thing I enjoy doing is singing as loud as I can! And I want to teach that to everyone!

In conclusion, taking away our funding means taking away some of the fun at our school. And the less fun at school means fewer people who get to go to an ACES school, which means our schools might have to close!!! It means my school, Wintergreen Inter-district Magnet School, might close. Please keep giving Wintergreen and other magnet schools the funding we need! (You're our only hope!!!)

Alayna Ellis (9)

Wintergreen Inter-district Magnet School

Ms. Rowland, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Hamden, Connecticut